WAR DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report of the Secretary, William W. Belknap.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 20, 1869.

I have the honor to submit my report as Secretary of War, together with the reports of the General of the Army and the different bureaus of the department made since the last annual report.

I took charge of the office on November 1, 1869, relieving the General of the Army, who had with marked zeal and ability performed its duties since the death of Secretary John A. Rawlins, on September 6, 1869. Of General Rawlins it can with truth be said that the virtues of true manhood characterized his life as soldier, citizen and statesman, while on the records of the department will ever remain the evidences of his high honor, his patriotism and his sagacious judgment.

During the month of October the General of the Army was acting as Secretary of War, and the annual reports, which were by his direction addressed to the Adjutant General of the army, have been, with his own report, transmitted to me. As the duties of the office were assumed but a few days prior to the date of this report few recommendations will be made at length, but the material matters of the reports presented will be referred to as concisely as possible.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

This report gives a clear view of the administration of the army and is very full, both in the statement of its present condition and recommendations for its future organization. Its importance is such that a synopsis cannot justly be given, and it is submitted with the following remarks:—

There are twelve departments and three districts, each under the command of a general officer, and the departments are formed into four military divisions, commanded by the four generals next in rank to the General of the Army. The regular army consists of five regiments of artillery, ten of cavalry, twenty-five of infantry, the battalion of engineers and the corps of cadets, the latter undergoing instruction at the Military Academy. All the regiments are on duty, and the General refers to the manner in which their work has been done, under the exposure to which they were subjected, as meriting the commendation of the country. In conformity with the act of July 28, 1866, and by the direction of the Secretary of War, a board of officers prepared a new code of the articles of war, which was, on February 1, 1868, transmitted to Congress. A system of regulations was also compiled, both code and regulations receiving the approval of the then General of the Army, and on June 12, 1868, Secretary Schofield asked the adoption of the new articles of war and the repeal of so much of the act as directs "the existing regulations to remain in force until Congress shall have acted on said report." It is very desirable that legislation be had enacting the rules and articles of war and approving the new regulations.

After the consolidation made in accordance with the act of March 3, 1869, there remained, on November 1, 509 unattached officers. All of these have been assigned to duty excepting 156, who are "awaiting orders." It seems equitable and just, should a reduction be made, that officers awaiting orders by their own request, and preferring that to active duty, should have less claim for retention than those who applied for assignment. Of this class there are 139 officers. Some of them, however, had special reasons for asking to be placed on the "awaiting orders" list, which the department recognized, and which should be regarded.

It is certainly fair that the consequences of reduction of officers should fall proportionately on cavalry, artillery and infantry, and, should Congress act in the matter it is proper that this consideration should not be overlooked. In reference to the question of reduction I concur with the report in recommending that authority be given to retire a greater number of officers for cause than is now allowed by law—seven per cent of the officers of the whole army.

The present maximum of the army is 52,274 enlisted men. Relying on two-thirds for actual service the number of men is 34,822. By the plan of organization submitted in the report there would be 42,659 men. Two-thirds for actual service would be 29,750 men, below which it would not be prudent to go, as the necessities of the country and the great extent of territory to be protected will require every man of that number.

Section six of the act of March 3, 1869, provides, "That until otherwise directed by law there shall be no new appointments and no promotions in the Adjutant General's Department, in the Inspector General's Department, in the Quartermaster's Department, in the Commissary Department, in the Ordnance Department, in the Engineer Department and in the Medical Department." I recommend that the staff corps be retained at the standard fixed by the act of July 28, 1866, and that the clause prohibiting appointments and promotions be repealed, in order that vacancies may be filled as was the practice prior to the passage of the act of March 3, 1869. Although the army may be smaller than heretofore experience has shown that these officers are as necessary for the smaller as the larger force.

The recommendations of the General of the Army as to his future organization are presented for your consideration without abridgment. He refers fully to the reports of the heads of bureaus. The remarks made by myself as to these will be found embodied in the abstracts of the reports hereinafter referred to.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

The Adjutant General submits a table of the "Organization of the Regular Army," an exhibit of the actual strength of the army and a statement of the position and distribution of troops. He recommends a repeal of so much of section six of the act of March 3, 1869, as prohibits further appointment or promotion, leaving the organization of the Adjutant General's Department as it was fixed by section ten, act of July 28, 1866, and also embodies in his report other recommendations.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

The results of the inspection service during the past year have been to discover and bring to the notice of the proper authorities the qualifications of officers to fill the positions assigned them; the condition of troops in regard to discipline, drill and efficiency—whether duty has been neglected; laws, regulations or orders violated; public property misapplied, lost or wantonly destroyed; whether there have been extravagant or unnecessary expenditures of public money, stores or material, and the personal responsibility for all irregularities and abuses, with suggestions for remedial action.

The report shows that through the agency of this branch of the service, there has been continued improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the troops, as well as the promotion of a more discriminating and careful regard for the economical application of the public money and property.

The number of inspectors now provided by law is deemed insufficient for the requirements of the service. An increase in the number of assistant inspectors general is therefore recommended.

BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

The Judge Advocate General reports the number of records of military courts received, reviewed and registered to be 14,944; number of special reports made, 1,352. This bureau, in addition to its regular duties, has been charged with the duty of systematically arranging and indexing the important State papers belonging to the offices of the late Colonel L. C. Turner, Judge Advocate, and Brigadier General L. C. Baker, Provost Marshal, and the work is steadily progressing. Lists are also being prepared of the fines and forfeitures imposed by military courts, and of cases of remission of the same.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The expenses of the Quartermaster's Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were $21,968,184, a reduction of $14,000,000 below those of the preceding fiscal year.

In February, 1869, the number of civilians hired by this department exceeded 10,000, which has since been reduced to 4,000. Five hundred line officers have done duty in the Quartermaster's Department, in addition to the officers of that establishment, eighty-four in number.

The report states that the clerical force of this office has been reduced so low by late legislation as to seriously retard the public business, and to provide for the settlement of accounts some increase in the force is necessary.

A building capable of accommodating all the bureaus of the War Department, fire-proof and secure, is much needed. Military records of great value are exposed to destruction, and are so scattered as to impede and delay public business. The monthly rental of buildings in Washington, and lots occupied by buildings owned by the United States, amounted to $4,294, being a yearly rental of $50,954.

The railway companies, to which the military railroad material of the Quartermaster's Department was sold on credit at the end of the war, incurred a debt originally of $7,591,405. Interest has increased this amount to $9,000,000, about one-half of which has been paid; but some railroads being in default, and showing no disposition to meet their obligations, suit has been lately ordered to be brought against them.

But few vessels have been owned by this department during the year.

The railroads of the country, having declined to adhere to the war rates of transportation, have been paid during the fiscal year upon their general tariffs, with a classification of military supplies settled in conference at a convention of general freight agents. There have been paid for water transportation during the year $1,424,242, and for railroad transportation $2,258,303. Of this amount $993,166 was paid to the Pacific railroads, one-half being paid in cash, and the other half retained in the Treasury to meet the interest on the bonds guaranteed by the United States. During the year 93,000 persons, 3,700 animals and 62,000 tons or stores have been moved by water, and 60,000 persons, 14,000 animals and 40,000 tons of stores by railroad; 27,000 tons of stores have been moved by contractors for wagon transportation. The Pacific Railroad has occupied some of the principal routes of former wagon transportation, and has saved the government much money in supplying the posts along its line.

By arrangement between the Departments of War and the Interior supplies for the Indian service are now transported by the Quartermaster's Department on routes in the Indian territory, the actual cost, under the contracts, being refunded to the War Department out of the appropriation of $2,000,000 for the pacification of the Indians, granted April 10, 1869.

Although the amount of clothing and equipage on hand at the end of the war has been reduced by sales and issues, there still remains a stock valued at over $42,000,000. The general depots have been reduced to four, and at only two of them is there any large collection of material, viz., at the Schuylkill Arsenal, on the Delaware, and at Jeffersonville, on the Ohio. This latter is being drawn upon constantly, but it still contains over $14,000,000 worth of war material.

There are seventy-two national cemeteries and 313 local, post, or private cemeteries in which soldiers lie buried. The titles of seventy-one of the national cemeteries have been approved as perfect by the Attorney General. Three hundred and twenty-two thousand six hundred and seven interments are reported, of which 171,946 have been identified. The expenditure on this work has been nearly $3,000,000.

During the year 5,855 animals were purchased and 3,492 were sold. These latter produced the sum of $22,338.

SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

Subsistence supplies for the army have been mainly procured in the large market cities of the country. The average cost of the ration at these markets has been about twenty-three cents. Efforts to procure salt meats on the Pacific coast for troops stationed there have met with great success, supplies of excellent quality having been obtained at favorable prices. Tobacco, at an average monthly value of $19,000, has been furnished to troops at cost prices, and the Freedmen's Bureau has been supplied with stores to the value of nearly $250,000, most of which has already been paid for, and the remainder is in process of refunding at the Treasury.

The issues to Indians at various points have amounted to more than $150,000, and at the request of the Interior Department stores valued at $37,500 were issued to destitute Osages and others to prevent starvation during the winter. Under an arrangement between the War Department and the Department of the Interior, the Indian Department is being furnished with food for the Indians on several reservations on the Missouri river and the Indian territory. The ration so furnished is prescribed or approved by the Interior department, and its value is to be repaid from appropriations made by section 4 of the act of April 10, 1869.

There has been paid $27,621 as commutation of rations to Union soldiers while prisoners of war. Claims for supplies furnished the army during the war, amounting to $2,899,806 have been received, of which $288,033 have been allowed and $2,581,064 have been rejected.

During the fiscal year 11,907 accounts and returns have been received from various officers, of which 11,787 have been examined and referred to the Third Auditor for final settlement.

The Subsistence Department has lost an honorable and excellent officer by the death, by assassination, of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Crane, commissary of subsistence, at Jackson, Miss., June 4, 1869.

A change in the army ration by extending the variety of articles, increasing some and diminishing others, and also in the manner of disposing of the savings in soldiers' messes and bakeries, would be of advantage to the service.

I unite with the Commissary General in recommending that the proviso to section two, act of March 2, 1867, be repealed. This will allow officers of the line, when acting as assistant commissaries of subsistence, to receive twenty dollars per month in addition to their pay in place of the sum of twenty dollars less one ration per day, now allowed.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The current expenditures of the Medical Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were $255,561; the total expenditure of that department, including "war debts" and "refundments," was $708,305, and the available balance on hand at the close of the year was $1,792,050.

The health of the troops has been good. Yellow fever has appeared at Key West only, and at this point there were forty-three cases and twenty-one deaths; but by the prompt removal of the troops to a new station the ravages of the disease were at once stopped. The total number of cases on the sick list during the year was 104,235. The average number constantly on sick report was 2,367, or about 5.5 per cent. The number of deaths was 548, of discharges for disability 1,128.

The first volume of the Medical and Surgical History of the War is being printed.

The number of commissioned medical officers for duty on June 30, 1869, was 161, being an average of one medical officer to 204 men. The number of posts was 239, besides detachments and outposts. There are now two vacancies of surgeons and forty-two of assistant surgeons in the medical corps.

The experience of the past three years has shown that the present organization of the medical staff is satisfactory; but that, even were all the vacancies in it filled, it would still be barely adequate to the demands made upon it.

PAY DEPARTMENT.

The Paymaster General presents the following summary exhibit:—

Balance in hands of paymasters at the beginning of the fiscal year July 1, 1868	$5,931,578
Received from the Treasury during the fiscal year	36,245,000
Received by paymasters from other sources, exclusive of sums transferred among themselves	$238,192
Total to be accounted for	$42,464,770
Accounted for as follows:—	
Disbursements to the regular army	$18,678,250
Disbursements to the Military Academy	185,258
Disbursements to volunteers (back pay and bounties)	19,918,635
Total disbursements	$38,782,144
Amount refunded to Treasury	48,948
Balance in hands of paymasters June 30, 1869	3,633,677
Total	$42,464,770

At the date of the last annual report there still remained in service eighteen additional (volunteer) paymasters retained for the payment of bounties to discharged volunteer soldiers.

Congress, by an act approved March 3, 1869, authorized and directed the transfer from this office to the Second Auditor of the Treasury of all additional bounty claims pending and unsettled on the first day of May following. After that transfer was accomplished it became practicable to dispense with the services of additional paymasters, and they were accordingly honorably discharged. There remain now in service only the sixty regular paymasters authorized by the act for the reorganization of the army, passed July 28, 1866. This force cannot with safety be subjected to much reduction while the number of military stations shall remain as at present.

The Paymaster General states that he is confirmed in the opinion that no system can be devised which, equal to the present one, can be made to combine the advantages of prompt payment to the troops, the safety of the public money, an accurate and immediate accountability, with the slightest possible liability to embezzlement or defalcation, and with the least cost to the government.

The disbursements for reconstruction purposes are $2,613,393, and the balance in hands of paymasters October 2, 1869, are $110,643.

In accordance with the requirements of law, all claims for the additional bounties granted by the act of July 28 remaining in the Paymaster General's office unsettled on the 1st of May last were transferred to the Second Auditor of the Treasury for settlement. Of the total number (441,959) received there were examined and settled by the Pay Department 440,608, leaving for transfer to the Auditor but 1,351 cases, of which the major part had been examined and determined, but not yet paid, for want of receipted vouchers from the claimants.

The total amount disbursed by the Pay Department for additional bounties, including those settled by the Second Auditor and paid by the department on Treasury certificates from the beginning to the 30th June last, is $57,220,150.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Chief of Engineers gives a detailed account of the operations of the Engineer Department, and of the means required to execute the duties devolved upon it. The officers of the Corps of Engineers, aided by details from other arms of the service and a number of civil engineers, have been engaged upon the permanent national defenses, survey of the lakes, river and harbor improvements, explorations and surveys, command and instruction of engineer troops, and in charge of public buildings, grounds and works in the District of Columbia. Twenty-two officers of the corps have been doing duty in the several military divisions, departments and districts, in the lighthouse establishment, and as instructors at the Military Academy.

Work has been continued on the permanent defences to the extent permitted by the small balances remaining of old appropriations. These have been exhausted for the most part during the year, and the works have consequently been closed up.

Experiments and trials have been made with iron and other materials with a view to their application in the defences, and trial has been made of a descending gun carriage for use in barbette batteries.

Methods of modifying and improving our existing defences have been determined on, the introduction of important auxiliary elements of defence is proposed, and Congress will be called upon to make appropriations, moderate in amount compared to the importance of the object, for the purpose of applying these changes, as soon as practicable, to the defensive works of several of our large seaport cities.

The battalion of engineers maintains its efficiency in drill and discipline and in the duties of its special arm. The engineer depots for the collection and storage of pontoon trains and other engineer equipments have been well advanced towards completion.

The river and harbor works have progressed as rapidly as the means appropriated for their execution allowed. The appropriation in April last of $2,000,000 for these works was distributed, in accordance with the law, so as best to subserve the interests of commerce.

The information respecting these improvements, which the Secretary of War is required by the several acts upon the subject to submit to Congress, will be found in the accompanying report of the Chief of Engineers.

The survey of northern and northwestern lakes has progressed commensurately with the amounts appropriated for conducting it. The Lake Superior survey is drawing to completion. It has developed many new harbors of refuge and made known dangers to navigation highly important to the commercial interests of the States dependent upon this water line of communication for the transportation of cereals and ores.

Reconnoissances and geographical and geological explorations and surveys have been continued during the year in the territory west of the Mississippi river, and the information thus obtained is supplied to the troops occupying that section of the country.

The survey of the Colorado of the West has not, for special reasons, been resumed. Collateral surveys now in progress may furnish evidence of the necessity of the survey of the upper portions of the river, and of the improvement of the lower portion as a line of military supply and of travel and transportation from the mines of Southern Nevada.

The geological survey just completed from the Sierra Nevada to the Rocky Mountains is fruitful in valuable results, especially in relation to the mining regions and to the extent of the coal formation. It also furnishes other scientific data of great interest.

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

The fiscal affairs of the Ordnance Department during the year ending June 30, 1869, were as follows:—

Amount available from all sources	$18,283,812
Expenditures since June 30, 1868	2,787,324
Turned into surplus fund	1,000,000
In Treasury, not credited to appropriations	701,751
In depositories, to credit of disbursing officers, June 30, 1869	425,529
In Treasury on June 29, 1869	13,369,206

The expenditures of the department during the year included over $500,000 for war claims and about $32,000 for cartridges made for the Navy Department and not yet paid for.

Liberty Arsenal, Missouri, has been sold during the year under authority of the act of July 25, 1868, and realized the sum of $8,012. The St Louis Arsenal will be sold under the same act as soon as it can be spared, but certain buildings thereat should be reserved from sale and devoted to general army purposes. The sale of the Harper's Ferry Armory property will take place on November 30, 1869. Rome Arsenal, New York; Champlain Arsenal, Vermont; Mount Vernon Arsenal, Alabama; Appalachicola Arsenal, Florida, and North Carolina Arsenal, North Carolina, are recommended to be sold. It is advisable that this should be done, and that the captured lands in Shreveport, La., and Marshall and Jefferson, Texas, and in Marion and Davis counties, Texas, should be similarly disposed of.

A principal arsenal of construction and deposit and a powder depot are recommended to be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and in the valley of the Mississippi. The sale of some of the present Eastern arsenals is suggested as a means to raise funds wherewith to establish the principal arsenal for the Atlantic coast. Rock Island is the point for the principal arsenal for the valley of the Mississippi.

Powder depots should be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, to be paid for out of the unexpended balance of the appropriations for the purchase of gunpowder and lead. Jefferson Barracks reservation answers for the depot for the Mississippi valley. Some more buildings are required at this latter place and are recommended to be paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of the St. Louis Arsenal.

The enlisted force of the department has been reduced from 1,500 to 750. There are sixty-one officers and fourteen ordnance storekeepers in the department, and of these officers six are on detached duty.

The operations at Springfield Armory have been confined to the preparation of machinery and tools for converting the Springfield rifled muskets into breech-loaders upon the plan recommended by the Ordnance Board of 1868, to the conversion of a small number under the orders of the Secretary of War for 50,000 and to cleaning Enfield muskets for sale.

The cavalry have been supplied with Spencer carbines altered to use the musket metallic ammunition. The infantry, heavy artillery and engineers have been armed with the Springfield breech-loading rifled musket. All these arms have given great satisfaction.

SIGNAL SERVICE.

Instruction has continued in the several military departments during the year, the purpose being to so diffuse a knowledge of the service and distribute apparatus that every officer may have such information of the duty as may suffice, in case of emergency, to save life in or prevent disaster to his command. The signal service has been brought into active use in operations against Indians on the plains.

The courses at the military and naval academies have been pursued as in the preceding year. The drill embracing that of the field electric telegraph and flag stations in the field, at West Point, before the Board of Visitors, received their commendation, and all the duties of sending messages by signals or by telegraph were performed by the cadets.

Fort Whipple has been maintained as a post of practice, instruction and experiment in the duties of the signal service. The force maintained constitutes a nucleus of organization for any emergency.

The organization and development of the field telegraph has received especial attention, and continued tests have been made with portable lines, such are used with trains in the field. The field telegraph trains are organized in a military form, which requires all movements to be executed at the word of command. An object has been to provide a train so equipped and organized as to enable four portable lines carried in it to be erected simultaneously at about the rate of three miles an hour.

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU.

The operations of this bureau have been closed, except the education and bounty divisions, and two hospitals for freedmen. The number of officers, agents and clerks has been reduced from 901 to 158. No further reduction is practicable so long as the present operations shall continue.

The bureau has had under its care, up to June 30, 1869, 584,178 persons. All the hospitals but two have now been closed or transferred to civil authorities, and one of the remaining two is about being closed. There will then remain but one, which is located in the District of Columbia, and cannot be dispensed with at present.

The general average during the whole period of the existence of the bureau shows that about one in two hundred, or one-half of one per cent of the freed people have been supported by the government.

The freedmen were advised to make written contracts with their employers and have the same explained and approved by a bureau officer. In a single State more than 50,000 such contracts were made. The labor of the freedmen has produced nearly all the food consumed in the South, besides large amounts of rice, sugar and tobacco for exportation and about 2,000,000 bales of cotton per year, on which were paid into the United States Treasury during the years 1866 and 1867 taxes amounting to more than $40,000,000.

Much disappointment and illfeeling was caused by the failure of the original plan to lease or sell the abandoned lands in small tracts to refugees and freedmen. Information has been published respecting lands under the Homestead act of June 21, 1866, and some aid given to those who desired to enter them. Attention is beginning to turn in that direction, and about 4,000 families have already made entries and obtained homes of their own. In a few instances freedmen have united in the purchase of farms under cultivation. They are very anxious to become land owners, and the possession of lands and homes is one of the chief means of their elevation.

But the most urgent want is education, and more attention has been paid to this than to any other subject. In each State at least one normal school has been organized. Several chartered colleges for freed people are in operation, also a university, in the District of Columbia.

In the 2,128 schools under the care of the bureau and officially reported, the number of teachers employed is 2,455, and the number of pupils is 114,522. Adding those estimated in private and Sabbath schools, the number under instruction of some kind during the last year is not less than 250,000. The freed people are doing what they can for their own education, having during the last year paid for tuition and the construction of buildings about $200,000.

The whole amount of bounties paid since April 17, 1867, when the first Treasury certificate was received, is $5,831,417. The balance on deposit now due to claimants is $1,220,666. Three thousand three hundred and eleven applications for bounty are now under examination in this office, and 18,000 such claims are now on file in the Second Auditor's office awaiting settlement, and it is believed that about 25,000 claims of this kind remain to be presented. The work of paying bounties is therefore not yet complete, and it is believed that the system now in operation should be continued.

The freedmen have been protected as far as possible from injustice. The means adopted have been conformed to the wants of the different communities.

The expenses of the bureau were met the first year with the proceeds of rents, sales of crops, school taxes and tuition, and sale of "Confederate States" property. The amount received from all these miscellaneous sources was $1,865,645, and from appropriations by Congress since July, 1866 $11,084,750, making a total of $12,950,395 received from all sources. The expenditures, including the accounts of the "Department of Negro Affairs," from June 1, 1865, to August 31, 1869, have been $11,184,028.

In addition to this, subsistence, medical supplies and quartermaster supplies were expended amounting in cash to $2,359,788, but whose real value, when transferred to the bureau, was probably less than $1,000,000. Adding their original cost to the cash expended the total expenses of the bureau have been $13,524,816.

Attention is called to the recommendation of the report that the hospital in this district be continued and that the payment of bounties be continued, by this or some other agency, until all should have a reasonable time to present their claims.

MILITARY ACADEMY.

The report of the Board of Visitors to the Military Academy for the present year is one of unusual importance and interest. The condition of affairs generally was found to be all that could be desired or expected under the present organization of the academy, but the organization itself, which has remained unchanged since the days when the army was but 10,000 strong and the nation was very far below its present size and importance among other nations, is declared to be inadequate to meet the future demands of the country, and a reorganization accordingly recommended:—The institution to be greatly enlarged; the number of cadets greatly increased; the standard of admission to be raised, and the cadets to be divided into two classes—one pursuing an ordinary course of military instruction and its members returned to civil life upon graduation, to spread a knowledge of the military art throughout the lands and supply trained officers for the emergencies of war; the other, selected from the promising members of the former class, and equal in number only to the yearly wants of the army, to pursue their studies and practice to the very limits of military science.

These recommendations are reviewed by the inspector of the Military Academy, who does not advise any present enlargement of the academy itself, but recommends an increase of the cadets to 400, a number which the academy can accommodate without enlargement, and which the army will probably be able to absorb as fast as they graduate; it being but two-fifths larger than the now authorized number, while the army has more than doubled in the mean time. Upon the question of raising the standard of admission, he remarks that every addition to the list of preparatory qualifications necessarily restricts the circle from which cadets can be drawn, and that the present list embraces all the attainments that can be obtained by a very large majority of the youth of the country. Since the standard was raised by law, in 1866, the rejections for want of the necessary educational acquirements have increased from fifteen per cent to twenty-seven per cent. As a substitute for the other recommendations of the board, the inspector proposes schools of application for the several arms such as exist in Europe and have always been favored by military officers here, and the nuclei for two of which is to be found in the artillery school at Fort Monroe, and one of the three engineer depots already established. He gives various reasons for his proposition, principal among them the ready and economical application of facilities already at hand, and the depressing influence upon the cadets of a long residence amid unchanging scenes and unvarying modes of life, study and discipline.

The estimates for the support of the Academy during the coming fiscal year amount to $342,264, of of which $212,019 is for pay and allowances of instructors and cadets.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

This division, commanded by Lieutenant General Sheridan, embraces the departments of Dacotah, the Platte and the Missouri, commanded respectively by Major General W. S. Hancock, Brevet Major General Augur and Brevet Major General Schofield.

These three departments cover a territory of great extent, in which most of the civilized, semi-civilized and wild Indians abide, and include the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota, and the Territories of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Dacotah, Montana and the Indian. The administration of these departments has been ably and economically conducted, but the number of troops now on duty in them is deemed insufficient, with the present reduced strength of companies, to meet the wants of the service.

Although there have been numerous depredations in this division, the condition of Indian affairs is very much better than last year. The policy of reservations adopted by the Indian Department is, in the judgment of General Sheridan, the only policy that will put an end to Indian murders and depredations. Every effort is made to avoid the necessity of punishing the savages, with the strong hope that they may settle down on their reservations and adopt a more peaceful and civilized life.

The system of supplying the wild bands under the present Indian management is working well; the Indian receives all that the government intends he should, and can have no plea of bad faith to urge as an excuse for a return to his former habits.

The troops at the different posts throughout this division are quartered comfortably. The expenses of the coming year will be much less than for the past.

A detailed report of the military operations in the Department of the Missouri accompanies the annual report of General Sheridan, and covers the operations of troops up to the 15th of October, embracing many combats, in which the number of Indians killed was ninety-two, number wounded unknown; number of soldiers killed six, and wounded ten; number of civilians—men, women and children—murdered by the Indians was seventy-nine, and nine wounded.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

This division, under the command of Major General Halleck since the 17th June last, is composed of the departments of the Cumberland, of Louisiana, of Mississippi and of the South, commanded respectively by Brevet Major General Cooke, Brevet Major General Mower, Brevet Major General Ames and Brevet Major General Terry, and includes the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina.

The principal occupation of the troops in this division has been in assisting revenue officers to execute the revenue laws; assisting United States marshals in executing the process of the United States courts; in enforcing the laws relative to the civil rights of freedmen, and all laws for the protection of life and property.

The elections in Kentucky and Tennessee passed off without any unusual disturbances.

The discipline of the troops in this division is as good as could be expected with the changes incident to the reorganization and consolidation of regiments. Supplies, except clothing, have been satisfactory and at reasonable prices. The general administration of the division has been conducted with the strictest economy.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

This division formerly consisted of the departments of the East, the Lakes and of Washington, under command of Major General Hancock. Subsequently Major General Meade was placed in command, the department of Washington broken up and attached to the Department of the East, and the First military district incorported in the division, which now embraces the States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

In the Department of the East and the Lakes the duties have been principally the charge and care of the sea coast and lake frontier defences, and the prevention of any attempt to violate neutrality laws, and in one instance in sustaining the United States civil authorities in matters pending before the courts.

In the first military district the troops, under the direction of the department commander, have been engaged in preserving public order and in executing the reconstruction laws of Congress.

The discipline and condition of the troops are reported by the division commander to be good.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

This division, which has been commanded by Major General Thomas since the 1st of June last, comprises the departments of California, Columbia and of Alaska, commanded respectively by Brevet Major General Ord, Brevet Major General Crook and Brevet Major General Davis.

The report of General Thomas gives details of military operations against hostile Indians in Arizona and measures for the protection of the Chinese population from apprehended assaults in the State of Nevada.

A personal inspection of the greater part of the territory embraced in his division was made by General Thomas, and the fruits of his observations are embodied in his report, which is of a character so interesting and valuable as to make an abstract of it here undesirable. His recommendation that the seal islands of Alaska, St. Paul and St. George be sold, being based on substantial reasons, should, in my opinion, be carried out.

FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT.

This district comprises the State of Virginia, and was at the date of the last annual report commanded by General Stoneman, who was succeeded by Brevet Major General Canby.

On the 1st of October the number of troops in this district was 185 officers and 1,478 enlisted men; the present effective strength of the command is ninety-nine officers and 1,077 enlisted men, of which thirty-one officers and 427 enlisted men are on duty at the artillery school; thirty-five officers and 640 enlisted men with the Seventeenth regiment of infantry, and thirty-three officers and ten enlisted men are on duty with military commissions and other reconstruction duty. If the companies of the Seventeenth infantry are filled to the maximum by recruiting no increase in the force in this district will be necessary.

The total number of civil officers in the State affected by the joint resolution of February 19, 1869, was 6,061, and of this number only 885 were found in office who could qualify under the law of July 2, 1862, leaving 5,176 appointments to be made. To the 1st of October last 3,070 have been made, and of these 393 have declined, resigned, been removed, or have failed to qualify; leaving 2,832 now in office, and 2,344 vacancies.

The officers who served in the State prior to General Canby's assumption of the command, and who are more or less acquainted with the people, were nearly all transferred to other stations, and were replaced, to a limited extent, by others who were entire strangers, and it was not until about the 1st June that a sufficient number had reported to enable the re-establishment of the divisions as they had previously existed, and thus secure assistance in making selections of persons to be appointed, and in ascertaining whether they were willing to accept and could qualify if appointed.

It was difficult to find suitable persons willing to accept offices the duties of which yielded no compensation and interfered with their ordinary business, and embarrassment was occasioned by the social and political pressure brought to bear upon native Virginians who were suggested or recommended for an office that involved the necessity of taking the oath prescribed by the law of July 2, 1862. However, with but few exceptions, the county organization is so far completed as to be in working condition.

The registration of 1867 was 121,271 white, and 106,105 colored, a total of 227,327. The registration of 1869 was 149,781 white and 120,103 colored; total, 269,884—an increase of 28,510 white and 18,998 colored voters; total increase, 42,508.

The election in this district passed off very quietly and probably with fewer incidents of disorder than is usual on public days. The general result is as follows:—

Total number registered	269,884
Whole number voting	222,349
Number registered but not voting	47,535
	269,884

The amount of funds appropriated for reconstruction purposes and remaining in the hands of the paymaster October 1, 1868, was	$13,343
Received during the year ending September 30, 1869	166,714
Total	$180,057
Expended during the year ending September 30, 1869	146,902
Balance on hand October 1, 1869	$33,154

The amount required in addition to the balance on hand October 1, 1869, for payment of outstanding debts and current expenses is $65,000.

FOURTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

This district has been commanded by Brevet Major General Ames since March 17, 1869, and comprises the State of Mississippi. The Sixteenth infantry regiment is the only military organization on duty there.

The employment of troops beyond the ordinary routine of duty has been confined to expeditions for the purpose of arresting lawless characters guilty of murder or other serious offences. Supported by public opinion a few men, in defiance of the law, commit murders and outrages, and civil officers are unequal to the task of bringing them to justice. Guarded and protected by their neighbors their arrest becomes very difficult, and the assistance of troops is demanded. The parties injured or their friends rarely undertake to aid the civil or military authorities, and if so, hesitatingly and secretly.

The cases are not numerous where violence has been offered the regularly constituted authorities, and in those instances the acts were committed generally by individuals who, nevertheless, were secreted and shielded by the people.

One of the most deliberate and cold-blooded cases of the kind was the murder in the streets of Jackson of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Crane, chief commissary of the district.

The report states that at the present time, on the eve of an election, the disturbances are increasing in number, and, if possible, more serious in character.

On the 27th April last General Ames, by general order, authorized all persons, without respect to race, color or previous condition of servitude, who possessed the qualifications prescribed by the laws then in force in that State, to act as jurors. This action he believes will finally result in forbearance on the part of the whites toward the colored population, and prove a security to them and their property.

FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

This district, on the 28th July, 1868, was reduced to include only the State of Texas, and is commanded by Brevet Major General Reynolds, whose report is for the year ending September 30, 1869.

The length of frontier line in this district to be protected against Indian incursions extends from the Red river to the Rio Grande, about 490 miles long, and along the Rio Grande for about 816 miles—a total of 1,306 miles.

Indian raids during the year have been unusually bold, and, it is believed, commanded in most instances by white men. Heavy damages to the citizens in live stock and property has resulted, but the loss of life has been small, amounting to about twenty-six persons.

It will be impossible to prevent Indian raids as long as there are wild Indians not assigned to any defined territory, and protection to the frontier cannot be afforded with the force in the district, owing to the numerous demands made upon it in the execution of the reconstruction laws.

Voluntary county organizations of citizens have in some cases been authorized and proved effective in some localities, but in others the arrangement has not met with cordial response from the people.

It is recommended by General Reynolds that a line of telegraph be built connecting the posts between Red river and the Rio Grande, at some convenient point, with Austin, San Antonio or Waco. Such a line will afford prompt communication with frontier posts and will effect concert of action. The expenses will be trifling compared with the advantages that may reasonably be expected.

Depredations in the country between the Neuces and Rio Grande, which is sparsely peopled and devoted chiefly to the raising of cattle, have been numerous. The offenders, Indians and Mexicans, generally come from the south side of the Rio Grande, and the stolen cattle are conveyed there for sale. Orders have accordingly been issued directing that the crossing of cattle shall be limited to specified points, but a sufficient time has not elapsed in which to test the efficiency of this regulation. The evil threatens to become one of such magnitude as to demand a reference to the government of Mexico.

The ordinary civil machinery of the State has been in operation, aided, whenever necessary and practicable, by the military force of the United States. Improvement is apparent in the disposition of juries to punish for murder and other high crimes. Military aid has been furnished to civil authorities to suppress bands of desperadoes who infest the State.

Under the provisions of the joint resolution of February 18, 1869, many county offices were vacated. Efforts to fill the vacancies thus occasioned have, in many cases, been unsuccessful. Laxity in execution of laws and interference with the collection of State taxes have been caused by persons qualified being unwilling to accept the office on account of the short duration of the term, and the fact that "appointees" are in most cases unpopular. The number of cases tried by military commission under section three of the act of March, 1867, from October 1, 1868, to September 30, 1869, is fifty-nine, of which twenty-one were convicted and thirty-eight acquitted.

The number of murders in the State from January 1, 1869, to September 30, 1869, was 334, and the number of crimes of this nature is steadily diminishing.

Quarantine regulations have been established, and an officer of the medical department detailed to supervise their observance. The State has been exempt from all epidemic disease.

APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES AND ESTIMATES.

There was carried to the surplus fund June 30, 1869, the sum of	$53,239,174
The actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were (including the Freedmen's Bureau)	56,761,732
To which must be added, for old war debts paid, the sum of	23,842,310
Making the total expenditures	$80,644,042
Of the above there was expended for reconstruction purposes	$406,419
There was appropriated for the service of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870	37,538,852
The estimated deficiencies are	2,945,000
The total estimate of military appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1871, is	34,531,031

In the foregoing estimate the amounts originally presented by the heads of bureaus have been materially reduced, and any appropriation smaller in amount than that asked for would fail to meet the necessary wants of the department.

The following estimates are submitted separately, and are given for the consideration of Congress as presented by the Chief of Engineers:—

For fortifications	$4,196,400
For rivers and harbors	7,961,900
Total	$12,158,300

As to the fortifications, I urge the appropriations asked for the forts near the larger cities named in the report of the General of the army, to wit:—Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco.

The amount required for public buildings and grounds and Washington aqueduct, as estimated by the officer in charge, is	$1,021,352
Which has been reduced, in the estimate presented herewith, to	498,970

Herewith, in addition to the reports, of which abstracts have been given, are transmitted those of the twelve department commanders:—

Department of the Dacotah, Major General Hancock.

Department of the Platte, Brevet Major General Augur.

Department of the Missouri, Brevet Major General Schofield.

Department of the Cumberland, Brevet Major General Cooke.

Department of Louisiana, Brevet Major General Mower.

Department of Mississippi—Brevet Major General Ames.

Department of the South—Brevet Major General Terry.

Department of the East—Brevet Major General McDowell.

Department of the Lakes—Brevet Major General Popet

Department of California—Brevet Major General Ord.

Department of Columbia—Brevet Major General Crook.

Department of Alaska—Brevet Major General Davis.

These reports show that the military administration of